



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

1400 South 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
406-994-4042

January 28, 2019

To: FWP Region 3 EA Standard Distribution List
Adjacent Landowners

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the lease and development of the Pig Farm Fishing Access Site (FAS). This area has a long history as an undeveloped river access. Leasing and development of this site will provide improved recreational opportunities for fishing, boating, floating, and safer crossing of the Montana Rail Link railway. Development of the site would improve an important access between existing FAS and replacing the Sheep Mountain FAS that, due to migration of the river channel, is no longer suitable for launching boats.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, Alternative B, as described in the Pig Farm FAS Proposed Lease and Development Draft Environmental Assessment. This alternative addresses the impacts and improvements to the Pig Farm Fishing Access Site.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be directed to:

Jay Pape
Fishing Access Site Manager
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-5592
Or emailed to: JPape@mt.gov

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Mark Deleray
Region Three Supervisor



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

1400 South 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
406-994-4042

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE

PIG FARM FISHING ACCESS SITE PROPOSED LAND LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman

January 28, 2019

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to lease approximately three (3) acres of public land from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) along the Yellowstone River for the purpose of providing public access and developing a fishing access site (FAS). Proposed developments include a gravel parking area, a gravel boat launch, a gravel launch staging area, a gravel access road, a concrete vault latrine, boundary fencing, and informational signs. Development of the site will include upgrades to the Montana Rail Link crossing in order to meet public crossing standards and help ensure public safety. Development of the site would provide an improved access point on the Yellowstone River for boaters and floaters, providing an alternate to the Sheep Mountain FAS as it is no longer suitable for launching boats.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, the proposed project was made available to the standard distribution list for 30 days, beginning December 21, 2018.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received one (1) comment regarding the proposed action during the 30-day public comment period.

One comment in support of the proposed project.

One comment expressed support for the project, stating: "...we all know the use on the Yellowstone seems to increase every year, and the more FAS' there are, the better it is to help get boats in and off the river and maybe spread out the usage..."

One comment opposing the proposed project.

On the single public comment submitted, the author also expressed... "my only negative comment is the name doesn't sound great, maybe call it Highland Livestock FAS."

FWP response to comments opposing the project

The suggestion that Highland Livestock FAS is suitable in consideration of the neighboring landowner (Highland Livestock). This undeveloped river access on the Yellowstone River has a long history of public recognition as "Pig Farm." Naming the Site Pig Farm is consistent with FWP's naming policy which states in IV.A., "The most important criteria in naming a site is to use a name that is presently used, if at all possible." To prevent future confusion with the recreating public, naming the site Pig Farm is the most appropriate.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, Alternative B, as described in the Pig Farm Fishing Site Proposed Lease and Development Draft Environmental Assessment. This alternative will greatly improve public access to this very popular stretch of the Yellowstone River.

Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Martha Williams, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Jay Pape, Fishing Access Site Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 S 19th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59718, 406-994-5592.



Mark Deleray
Region Three Supervisor
